VOLUME 15 NO. 10 FEBRUARY 2005 FREE

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

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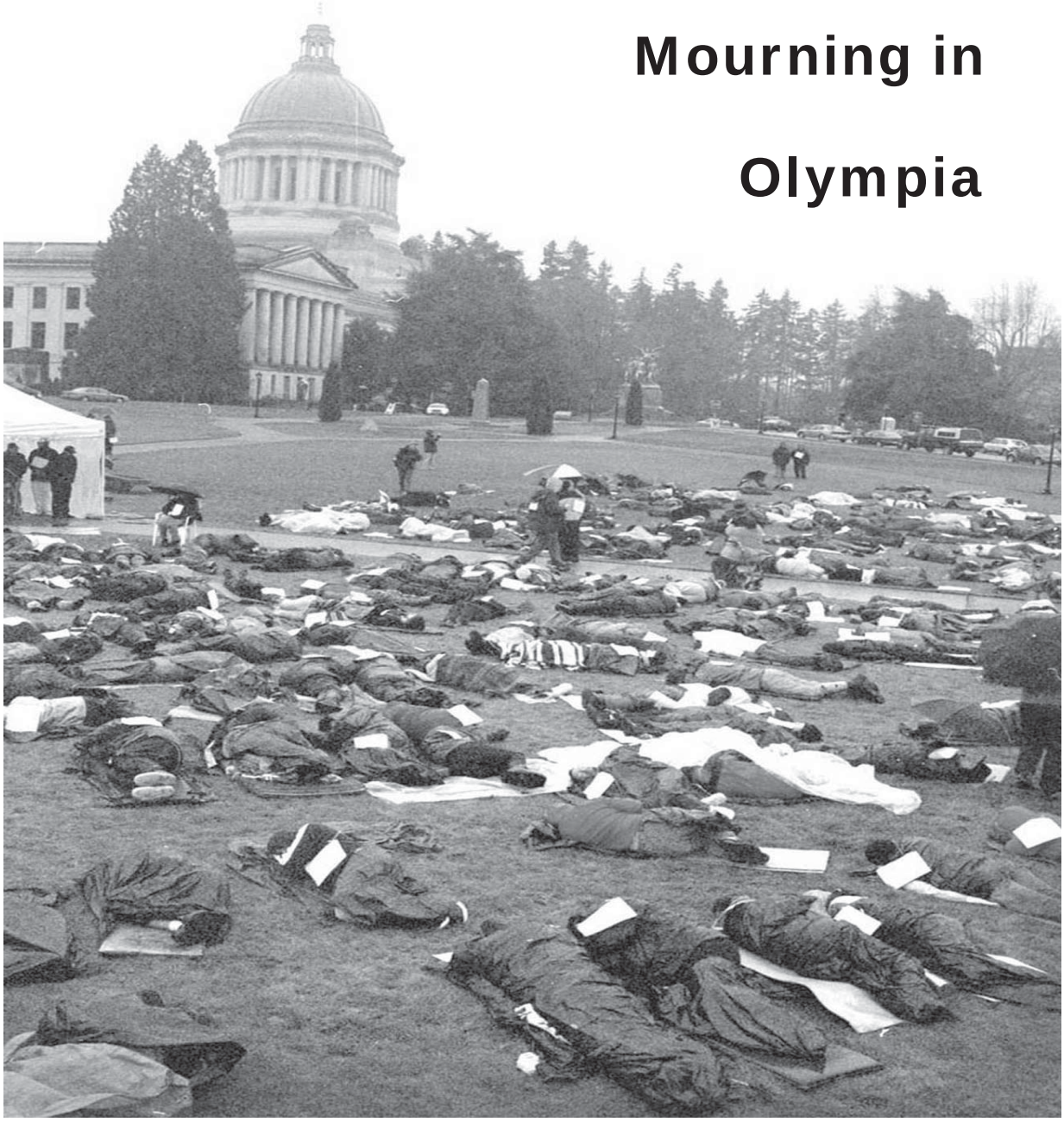
Mourning in Olympia



WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 10 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 2005

The Militarization of the Port of Olympia and "Humanitarian Aid" From the Port

An OMJP sponsored article

by Larry Mosqueda

www.omjp.org

Militarization of the Port of Olympia

Unbeknownst to the residents of Thurston County, on December 10, 2004 the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established what they call a "permanent security zone" with military control of the Port of Olympia when a military ship comes to the Port. This was done in semi-secret because the public was not informed of this action at the time it was proposed, or when it occurred. On October 12 2004, (perhaps, appropriately, Columbus Day), the USCG and DHS published in the Federal Register (Vol.69, #196, pages 60600-60603) that they were planning to create a "Security Zone" at the Port of Olympia and that comments should be made by November 26, 2004.

Even as a professional political scientist, I rarely read the Federal Register (nor does hardly anyone else). This is where bureaucrats and agencies make rules and regulations that presumably enforce the laws that are passed by congress and the president. It is also where controversial proposals are made if the US government (USG) wants to hide activity that likely will bring resistance from the people.

One of the stated reasons (p. 60601) for this "national security" action was the need to protect Olympia's waterways from Al Queda. Al Queda. In Olympia. The essence of the proposed regulation was to give military control of the Port of Olympia to the Captain of Port Puget Sound in Seattle whenever a military ship, DOD "assets," or military cargo are at the Port. (The Captain can be reached at 206-217-6200, 206-217-6232, or 800-688-6664.)

On Friday, December 10, 2004, the USCG and DHS made the "Final rule" to implement their plan. (See Federal Register, Vol. 69, #237, pages 71709-71711. Friday is a traditional day for the US Government (USG) to bury information.) The USCG-DHS stated that "no written comments" were made and "A public hearing was not requested and none was held."

This, of course, was at a time (October-December) when there was great controversy in Olympia on the use of the Port for military shipments to Iraq - a war that many legal experts, the UN and even some of Bush's advisors have found to be illegal under international and national law. This was also the timeframe that the Port commissioners had a large public hearing (November 11, 2004) where the vast majority of the citizens present expressed opposition to the use of the Port for the war. The commissioners did not tell the citizens assembled that the USCG-DHS was planning to militarize the Port, even though this issue dominated the meeting for hours.

Either the commissioners did not know of the impending takeover, in which case the USCG-DHS treated them with contempt and distain and were derelict in their duties, or the commissioners did know about the impending takeover and did not inform the public who elected them on an issue that was obviously of great interest to the public. If that is the case it was the general public who was treated with contempt by the commissioners. According to the December 10 "Final rule," "No written comments were received by the Coast Guard regarding this proposed rule." This means that if the Port commissioners knew about this proposed rule, they themselves did not even comment on this major port event.

There are several questions that need to be asked of the Port commissioners. What did they know and when did they know it? If they knew about this proposal at the large public meeting on 11/11/04, why did they not inform the public who were there to discuss this issue? Are they/were they in favor of the militarization of the Port? Since the regulation prohibits entry into the Port area on land and water, when military cargo is at the port, without permission of the "Captain of the Port" who will enforce this besides the military? What is the danger to the general public? How much will this action cost the public and public agencies, including the Port? The regulation states that the "Captain …. may be assisted by other federal, state, or local agencies." Were other agencies informed? The Olympia city council was not. According to the December 10 "final rule" the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act states only when federal laws "results in expenditures by a state, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate of $100,000,000 or more in any one year" does the USCG-DHS have to consider the cost. While the cost of this rule is unlikely to reach that level, what is the estimated cost to the state and local governments? The commissioners have a responsibility to answer these questions to the citizens and other local officials.

More than the wasted resources, this local militarization of the port is an unnecessary act for unnecessary shipments to an unnecessary, illegal, and immoral war. These shipments make us, the citizens of Thurston County, complicit in the continuing American and Iraqi deaths and carnage.

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To call "New Horizon" humanitarian work would make Orwell cringe, as even some elementary research would have shown.

So-called humanitarian aid of "New Horizons"

The Port has been used for the current war six times over the past year. The most recent shipment in January has been designated by Ft. Lewis public relations (and dutifully reported by the Olympian) as a "Humanitarian Mission" to Nicaragua and Haiti. The name of this so-called "humanitarian aid" mission is "New Horizons." To call "New Horizon" humanitarian work would make Orwell cringe, as even some elementary research would have shown. The military itself (USSOUTHCOM) admits that "the primary objective remains providing excellent, comprehensive, training opportunities to U.S. military personnel" and not humanitarian work. The term New Horizons was invented from the old title "Fuertes Caminos/Strong Roads." Strong Roads to where? To and in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Andes countries.

In Haiti, where the US military has been a major source of repression for two centuries (see Paul Farmers, *The Uses of Haiti*, among other books) including the most recent coup against Aristide, "New Horizons" is known and it is not welcome. Even before Bush, the US government stated that the purpose of this program was just "changing the configuration…by replacing permanent bases with rotational assistance teams under the auspices of the Southern Command's Operation New Horizons." (Haiti Progres, September 1-7, 1999)

The USG sees unrest (i.e. people's resistance) in Haiti and elsewhere and wants to save resources for future military operations. In 1998, Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, the commander of US forces in Latin America told Congress, "unrest generated by political instability requires us to

("Port of Oly" continued on page 10)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, WA. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to ***wip@zhonka.net*** or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool:

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

About the cover:
100 Thousand and Counting Death Tableau. *See pages 6 and 7 for photo essay of this and other recent local peace/ anti-war demonstrations.* photo by Kathy Strauss

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

February 18

PO Box 295, Olympia WA 98507
wip@zhonka.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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Announcements, etc.

Support the Truth
at the
Capitol Theater
Friday, Feb. 18th, 7:00 pm
Speakers:
Scott Ritter & Dahr Jamail
Music:
Infernal Noise Brigade
Cost:
$5 - if you've got it
(See related article on page 9)

Kyoto & Beyond

Wed Feb 16: Join concerned folks from **6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Climate Solutions, 610 4th Ave E.**, Olympia, to celebrate the day that the Kyoto Accords go into effect to reduce Global Warming. The Bush regime has 'unsigned' the Accords, but many states (including Washington) are taking the lead in the effort to lower CO_2 emissions. Speakers will highlight what's going on around the country, in our state, and locale. This is your chance to get informed and connected with a crucially important issue. Help build the movement towards a Clean Energy economy! Sponsors: Green Party and Voices for Change. Info: Chris 705-3528

The Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education

February 17, 6-8 pm, The Evergreen State College Longhouse. The Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, a public service center of Evergreen, is hosting a free seminar with Rebecca Solnit, writer, activist, and frequent contributor to The Nation and Orion Magazine, based on selections from her book, Hope in the Dark. All are welcome. Doors open at 5:30, Solnit will speak briefly at 6, followed by time for reading, small group discussions of some of her ideas, and then a time for questions and answers.

February 19, 1-4, Greg Cajete, gifted educator, artist and author, a Tewa from Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico, will lead a seminar on selections from his book, Igniting the Sparkle: Indigenous Methods of Science Education. All are welcome to this seminar too. See www.evergreen.edu/washcenter for more information about these events.

Another contact is Sharilyn Howell, conference coordinator, 867-5611,

See page 11 for article about Community Cooperative Solutions

Aceh Presentation: Feb.1

Noted human rights and pro-independence activist, Ms. Shadia Marhaban, from Aceh, will give a talk in Olympia on **Tuesday, February 1st at ~ Noon in the Library Lobby at the Evergreen State College, and at ~ 7 P.M. at Traditions Café at 5th and Water in downtown Olympia.**

Ms. Marhaban will speak about the history of the Aceh, the past and present Indonesian military occupation there, the devastating tsunami, future possibilities, and what we can do to support the people of Aceh.

[See related article on page 5.]

David Rovics and Robb Johnson in Concert

Political folk singer and song writer David Rovics who has a sizeable fan club in Olympia will be back in town on Tuesday March 1. David will be joined by London-based singer-songwriter, Robb Johnson (www.robbjohnson.co.uk).

Prolific as ever, David has a new recording: BEYOND THE MALL(2005). This web-only release (which like all David's albums is available for free downloads on his webpage (www.davidrovics.com) includes 10 new and very timely songs.

David and Robb will play at Evergreen at noon and at 7pm at Traditions Cafe.

Forum To Save Social Security: Promoting Progressive Reform and Fiscal Reality

Tuesday, March 1st, 7:00 to 9:00pm, Olympia Center Room A:

Speakers and small groups will discuss:

-How the existing Social Security system works.

-What the Bush Administration is really proposing.

-Social Security is Solvent - Critiques of the proposals for privatization.

-Bush's Social Security 'Crisis' rhetoric and how to avoid the pitfalls of debate.

-Alternatives to the Bush Proposal.

-What We Can Do to Stop the Privatization of Social Security.

[See page 8 for related article.]

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition February Events

~ Public Speaking

Does public speaking stress you out? Come to **WROC Night Out, Monday Feb. 7. Potluck 5:30, training from 6 – 8 pm.** On-site childcare provided. Learn some good tricks and practice testifying in front of a legislative committee.

~ Volunteer meetings

Every Wed. afternoon at the WROC office in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St. *Call 352-9716 for more info.*

~ Legislative Advocacy Day

Mon., Feb. 21. Coffee, muffins, and a legislative training at 10:00 AM at the WROC office. Bring sack lunch. Capitol Campus tour. Make appointments NOW with the senator and representatives in your district. *Call 1-800-562-6000 to make appointments and if you don't know, they can tell you what district you are in and who your legislators are in and who your legislators are.*

Free School Schedule

See page 11 for Winter 2005 class list.

FEBRUARY 2005

— Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out. Vaclav Havel • I am totally confident not that the world will get better, but that we should not give up the game before all the cards have been played. Howard Zinn • The past isn't dead. It isn't even past. William Faulkner • Optimism is a kind of heart stimulant -- the digitalis of failure. Elbert Hubbard • Optimists are nostalgic about the future. The whole world is a scab. The point is to pick it constructively. Peter Beard • The power of accurate observation is often called cynicism by those who have not got it. George Bernard Shaw • It is around-the-corner brand of hope that prompts people to action, fighting and expressin — that's doing something. John Trudell — Chicago Tribune • History repeats itself because nobody listens. Laurence Peter • If you cling to hope, you sit and hope and you do nothing. It's like heroin. Praying and while the distant hope acts as an opiate. Eric Hoffer • Hope is the poor man's bread. Gary Herbert • The

We've lost that hopeful feeling

According to a source at the U.S. National War College, an American strike against Syria nearly took place a month ago, but was put on hold because of objections from the US Army. Any future attack could take the form of an air and naval bombardment, rather than a ground invasion. Syria is accused of infiltrating money, weapons and recruits to the insurgency in western and northern Iraq, and of giving support to anti-Israeli guerrilla groups like Hizbullah and Hamas; while Iran is in America's gunsights because of what is described as its "large-scale interference" in Iraq. Patrick Seale, *Daily Star* (1/22/05)

now it's gone, gone, gone...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
God loves you, and I love you. And you can count on both of us as a powerful message that people who wonder about their future can hear. GW Bush, L.A., Mar. 3, 2004		**1** **1893**: Hawaii is declared a US protectorate w/o authorization from WA DC **2004**: US troop death toll in Iraq: 524	**2** **2004**: Bush sends $2.4 trillion budget to Congress, pared EPA funds **2004**: Curt Pavola announces he will not run for reelection in 2005	**3** **2004**: Douglas Faneuil testifies he was ordered to pass secret tip to Martha Stewart about dumping of ImClone shares	**4** **1998**: Bill Gates gets cream pie in the face **2004**: MA Supreme Court rules civil union not option instead of same-sex marriage	**5** **2004**: Bush: "knowing what I knew then, and knowing what I know today, America did the right thing in Iraq"
6 **2003**: Pentagon reports that five detainees at Guantanamo have attempted to hang themselves in the last three weeks	**7** **2004**: American Airlines reports pilot is under investigation for asking passengers to raise their hands if they were Christians	**8** **1913**: British suffragettes destroy London-Glasgow phone line **1996**: Residents along the Nisqually evaluate to escape flood waters	**9** **2004**: 3 Muslim men from Portland OR sentenced 7, 8, and 10 years for trying to enter Afghanistan to fight w/ Taliban	**10** **2004**: Pentagon says Afghanistan/Iraq operations in will be out of funds by Sept **2004**: SD House oks anti-abortion bill	**11** **2002**: FBI warns there may be another attack as soon as tomorrow **2003**: CDC reports first increase in AIDS cases since 1993	**12** **2004**: Massachusetts legislature defeats ban on gay marriage **2004**: San Francisco begins performing gay marriages
13 **2003**: Congress clears way for more logging on federal lands **2004**: Election reveals reveal Yelm school levy failed by 18 votes	**14** **2003**: Reserve pilots/ aircrew of 446th Airlift Wing called to active duty at McChord **2003**: Dolly, cloned sheep, put to death	**15** **2004**: The White House quietly reverses effort to ban MBTE as an gas additive that contaminates drinking water	**16** **2004**: Int'l human rights group, Centre on Housing Rights/ Evictions, gives first Housing Defender Award to Rachel Corrie	**17** **1999**: Israeli security guards at Israeli Embassy in Berlin open fire on Kurdish demonstrators killing 3, wounding 16 others	**18** **2004**: Federal report: Washington state fails to meet national standards in caring for abused, neglected and vulnerable children	**19** **1998**: Three men were charged w/ possessing anthrax for use as weapon (they were later cleared of charges)
20 **2004**: US Treasury Dept bans editing by publishing companies of work authored in nations under trade embargoes	**21** **1885**: Congress enacts Contract Labor law bans employers from contracting abroad for immigrant labor in return for passage to US	**22** **2004**: Nader announces he is running as an independent **2004**: US begins largest rotation of military forces in its history	**23** **2004**: Education Secretary calls WEA "terrorist organization" **2004**: US Supreme Court rejects WA's blanket primary	**24** **2003**: EPA: asthma in children doubled in last two decades **2004**: Bush calls for amendment to ban same-sex marriage	**25** **2004**: Clear Channel suspends Howard Stern's radio show **2004**: Israel troops raid Palestinian banks, seize $6.7 million	**26** **2004**: Justice Dept subpoenas Planned Parenthood records **2004**: Lacey rejects Mexican ID card as valid identification
27 **1933**: Hitler torches Reichstag in Berlin, claims it's a Communist plot to oust him. Some 5,000 "Communists" are arrested	**28** **1965**: Defense Sec McNamara calls for bomb shelter network **1933**: Hitler issues decree suppressing civil liberties	Marching for war doesn't instill a lot of confidence in the future. GW Bush, WA DC, 2-19-04	[Bush looking across the Arkansas River...] Tour guide: Usually, you might see some bass fishermen out there. GW Bush: A submarine could take this place out. *(Dedication of Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock)*			

Unfit for Military Service

by Ron Jacobs

When I left high school in 1973, most of my friends were glad that the likelihood of being drafted was almost nil. Sure, the law was still on the books, but the draft itself had, for all practical purposes, been terminated earlier that year. There were a variety of reasons for this move-incredible discontent, even open rebellion in the armed forces; and a desire by the government to get the youth back on its side being foremost among them-and the class of 1973 was all too happy to accept any of them if it meant that they wouldn't have to wear the man's uniform.

Like other graduating classes that year, we had seen enough guys from classes ahead of us get out of high school only to be drafted into the military. Sure, some of the guys in my class wanted to go in just like their dads, but most of them had had enough of the whole damn military culture. After all, we were attending high school on a military base and our dads were mostly lifers (or career NCOs and officers in plain speech). Although we didn't have to wear baggy green uniforms or cut our hair as short as the GIs, we all felt like we had more military nonsense floating around in our consciousness than the average US citizen and, in many cases, more than we had ever wanted.

This being the case, I was quite surprised when, as graduation day slipped further into our pasts, some of my friends actually enlisted in the service. Indeed, not only was I surprised at how many did this, I was even more surprised at who the young men were who did. None of them were pro-war or pro-military, yet when their economic situation became desperate they joined the service. Most of them stayed in for the entire length of their enlistment and a few even made it a career. One exception was my friend, whom I'll call Steffen. He was hitchhiking through the south one winter and had no money in his pockets and no food in his belly. A nice guy about thirty who was driving a black sedan with government license plate picked him up near Jackson, Mississippi. After buying Steffen lunch and a beer at some diner, the two continued towards Shreveport, Louisiana. As the road rolled on, they engaged in conversation. Steffen was a bearded and longhaired fellow, but that was pretty much par for the course in 1973, even in the Deep South.

Eventually, it became clear to Steffen that the driver was an Army recruiter who had been on a tour of high schools and junior colleges in the region. By the time the car arrived in Shreveport, Steffen had been convinced to enlist. To make his story short, Steffen lasted three weeks at boot camp and was asked to leave the military. As it turned out, he was "considered unfit for military duty." When I heard this story through a mutual friend I laughed. I could have told them that before Steffen wasted their time.

In the past few weeks, several stories have surfaced in the media about (mostly) young men who have either committed suicide or attempted to do so because they were in the service and were being sent back to Iraq after at least one previous tour in that war-torn place. Most recently (January 10, 2005), police in a small Central Valley California town killed a Marine. This was after he had already killed one policeman and wounded another. It was the opinion of the officers investigating the incident that the man had committed what is termed "suicide by cop." In other words, he created a situation that required the police (according to their training) to shoot him. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle,* the paper that ran the story, he didn't want to go back to Iraq. The young man's unit had already done two tours there. If the reader ever saw *Rambo I,* this news item has got to be somewhat reminiscent of that piece of cinema.

He wasn't "fit" to do what Donald Rumsfeld and George Bush wanted him to do.

This tragic story is but one of many. I use it as a way to illustrate that it is the rare human being who is truly "fit" for military service. After all, when being "fit' means a willingness to kill women and children, destroy their homes, watch your friends die in incredibly grotesque ways, and then go home to play video games as if nothing happened, what kind of human would be "fit?" This young man was most likely quite fit to be a father and a partner, but not to kill children. He was also probably quite fit (like most of his fellow soldiers) to do various kinds of work in the service and maybe even to carry a gun for something he believed in. But he wasn't "fit" to do what Donald Rumsfeld and George Bush wanted him to do.

Without a draft and with declining enlistments in the regular army, the reserves, and the Guard, a discharge of the type my friend received in 1973 will become less and less likely. Military recruiters, those dealers in human flesh and blood, have their work cut out for them. The men and women currently in Uncle Sam's military will not only find their units being reassigned to combat zones more frequently, they will also find their date of termination being delayed over and over again. However, until there is no more combat or until enough of these service folks start objecting to their indentured servitude (which would presumably lead to no more combat), the Pentagon will continue to declare individuals already in its clutches "fit" for military service. This is in spite of the fact that the more frequently this is done to these men and women, the less fit many of them will be for any kind of existence much less that of the combat military.

Men and women like the one from California whose tragic end I related here will become, like his victims, so much more collateral damage.

***Ron Jacobs** is author of The Way the Wind Blew: a history of the Weather Underground, which is just republished by Verso. Jacobs' essay on Big Bill Broonzy is featured in CounterPunch's new collection on music, art and sex, Serpents in the Garden. He can be reached at: rjacobs@zoo.uvm.edu*

12th Annual NW International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier March and Rally for Justice

Sat., Feb. 5, 2005. Tacoma, WA:

~ March for Justice: 12:00 Noon Portland Ave. Park (on Portland Ave. between E. 24th and E. Fairbanks Ave. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head east) in Tacoma

~ Rally for Justice: 1:00 PM U.S. Federal Court House, 1717 Pacific Ave., in Tacoma

Program

Harold Belmont: Elder, Native People's Alliance With Friends and Allies, Dorothy Ackerman: Lakota Elder, Portland, OR Wolverine: Shuswap Elder, Aztec Dancers Matilaja: Yu'Pik/Yakama, Pete Sanchez: Ktunaxa (Kutenai), Drummer, Jim Page: Folk Singer/Activist, Michael One Road: AIM, Portland, OR, Bill Simmons: International Indian Treaty Council, Jeanette Bushnell: Anishinaabe, Kerwin Hemlock: Drummer Russell Redner: AIM, Larry Mosqueda: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and Olympia CISPES, Kii yaa tuk: East Texas Choctaw, Wildcat Community Development Juan Jose Bocanegra: Every Worker's Movement, Steve Hapy, Jr: Tacoma LPSG Arthur J. Miller: Tacoma LPSG NW AIM Drum

After rally potluck meal and get together: Around 4:00 pm. At the First United Methodist Church, 423 Martin Luther King Jr Way. From the rally go south up the hill to Martin Luther King Jr Way and turn right. The church is right next to a large hospital. Speakers and music will continue at the church. *Help/ volunteers are needed! If you would like to volunteer or have any questions or need to contact the host group please send an e-mail to: Karen at:* ***karenh@harbornet.com***

The purpose of the Annual Tacoma Marches for 12 years has been to keep Leonard's case out in the public, to build support for Leonard and to educate people on Leonard's case and other Native issues. We will not be intimidated by the City of Tacoma and police force. The City has tried to stop our marches when we stood up to them and demanded our right to march. Last year they pulled out a massive police force that was nothing more than a political statement against our right to march. Police on bikes tried to provoke conflict with marchers; among other things, they made racist remarks to Native marchers. Our all-native security team handled the situation very well and the provocateurs were unsuccessful. Our marches include people of all ages from Elders to children and people in wheelchairs. We work hard to keep our marches open to all people and to keep them safe. *Those people who have video or camera equipment can help the security team by being in different parts of the march and record what takes place.*

Please, if you can send us a donation of any amount that will help. Please make checks out to: Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group, and send them to the address above. Thank you.

For inquiries and much-needed financial donations, contact:
Tacoma Leonard Peltier Support Group
P.O. Box 5464
Tacoma, WA 98415-0464
Tacoma-lpsg@ojibwe.us
bayou@blarg.net

Folk Singer Tom Rawson Performs Saturday, March 5 to Benefit Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation

Tom Rawson, a banjo-playing, crowd-delighting folksinger, performs on **Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Plenty! Restaurant on the corner of 4th and Columbia in downtown Olympia.**

Rawson has charmed and invigorated audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest with his infectious wit, energy and songs that "you just can't resist singing along with."

As Steve Durfee wrote in the *Victory Review*, "Tom Rawson-Pete Seeger. These two run together in my mind. We gladly follow his lead and sing with the chorus from the very first song… First timer or old fan, old song or new, it always seems we are singing our favorites with an old friend."

Admission to Rawson's performance, a benefit for the Olympia chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), is based on a sliding scale donation of $10-$25 (self-determined.). Admission includes a 20% discount for dinner at Plenty! on the night of the show only. Light refreshments will be served at intermission.

Tickets are available by advance purchase only.

Send checks payable to Olympia FOR,

5015 15th Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98503-2723.

For complete details call Glen Anderson at (360) 491-9093.

The Olympia FOR has been working for peace, nonviolence and social justice since 1976.

Sorry, the first one could say

"White Man's Burden" and the Iraq War

by Mike Whitney

"I do not agree that the dog in the manger has the final right to the manger, even though he may have lain there for a very long time. I do not admit that right. I do not admit for instance, that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America, or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been done to these people by the fact that a stronger race, a higher grade race, a more worldly-wise race, to put it that way, has come in and taken their place." Winston Churchill; to the Peel Commission of Inquiry 1937, defending the brutal slaughter of Palestinians in the first Intifada of 1936 "on grounds of the racial superiority of the Jews".

One of the important topics that continues to remain off-limits in regards to Iraq is race, and the racist theology that drove the country to war. It's odd, in a country where so much of the history is steeped in the blood of chauvinistic wars, that Americans are still hesitant to examine the reflection in the mirror. Wasn't the nation shaped by a genocidal assault on Native Americans; killing upwards of 10 million indigenous people and decimating their culture? Or was that simply a demonstration "Manifest Destiny"; God's sordid will expressed by dispatching people of color to their immortal reward? The same could also be said of slavery; the odious transformation of people into chattel to augment the wealth of a few plantation owners. That crime was vindicated under the rubric of "states rights", a moniker that justified 200 years of methodical brutality and exploitation. Yes, these crimes always have their attendant rationalization.

How different is Bush's Global Democratic Revolution: the melodious sounding euphemism for racial warfare and subjugation? Don't deny it; the evidence is everywhere. The third world has entered Bush's crosshairs and racist ideology is fueling the hysteria.

American liberals won't investigate the issue of race; the cultural deterrents are far too great. Besides, many of these so-called "progressives" feed from the same trough that energizes the system. The racist component of the war on terror is the elephant in the room; the ultimate taboo that eludes all respectable public discourse. Let's call it what it is for a change.

How many Christians are there in Guantanamo Bay? How many Jews? How many white Christians are there in Abu Ghraib, or in any other of Rumsfeld's numerous gulags stretched out across the planet?

A survey conducted by Cornell University two weeks ago proved what many had already suspected. "Nearly half (44%) of all Americans believe that the US should restrict the civil liberties of Muslim Americans…The survey also found that Republicans and highly religious people were more apt to support curtailing civil liberties of Muslims." (Al Jazeera) No surprises there, but is this change a natural response to the events of 9-11, or are there other factors at work?

"Researchers also found that respondents who paid more attention to television news were more likely to fear terrorist attacks and support limiting the rights of Muslim Americans." (Al Jazeera)

This clearly illustrates the connection between televised media and the increasing prejudice directed at Muslims. We can debate the significance of this observation, but we cannot ignore the fact that the media is the breeding-ground for greater discrimination.

The question is whether or not the media is deliberately complicit.

The media serves as the mouthpiece for corporate America. At present, it's using its national platform to demonize both Arabs and Muslims, a process that involves the subtle manipulation of the facts to discredit its victim. The facts are either emphasized or downplayed according to the overall objectives of ownership. In this case, ownership is foursquare behind the occupation of Iraq, a judgment that applies to all the major networks without exception. This means that the goal of American elites is shaping the news, contributing to the distortions, and creating greater antipathy towards the native people (Muslims). It's part of the information-management strategy to elicit more support for an unpopular conflict.

Both European and American cultures are built on a solid foundation of entitlement and white privilege. ... Iraqis don't want our smug condescension or our cultural elitism. They just want us to leave.

As the Cornell survey proves, the overall affect of the media campaign is a steady increase of racial and sectarian division. Televised news is a virtual spawning ground for burgeoning prejudice, feeding the imagery of fanatical Muslims being tamed by the benign forces of "white" civilization. The paternalistic themes in the coverage are almost unbearable. American servicemen are invariably depicted as struggling to bring the unruly "dark skinned" locals into the ardent grasp of democracy. It's a dubious portrait of a Father showering love on his errant children. What baloney. Iraqis don't want our smug condescension or our cultural elitism. They just want us to leave.

The roots of racism are not hard to fathom. Both European and American cultures are built on a solid foundation of entitlement and white privilege. (Did anyone notice France backing-away when they were asked to provide troops for Haiti or Ivory Coast?) Even now, Europe's leaders would join the onslaught in Iraq if the division of resources were to their liking. Only now, the plundering of nations and the subsequent destruction of their culture is embraced under the sobriquet of "humanitarian intervention", a general disclaimer for the racist subjugation of third world countries.

History is really nothing more than a faithful chronicle of racist wars. The illusion of "western culture" is only perpetuated by concealing the enormous material wealth that was stolen from vulnerable people of color. Our "civilization" is grounded on plunder, a dismal fact that neither great music nor inspiring literature can disguise.

When Mahatma Gandhi was asked what he thought of western civilization, he said, "I think it would be a good idea". His response is as apt today as it was 50 years ago.

Churchill's platitudes on race, "a stronger race, a higher grade race, a more worldly-wise race", are familiar to the denizens of the Oval Office, as they are to their constituents in their leather-upholstered boardrooms and their antebellum-style country clubs across the nation. He is only reiterating what they already know. The apologists of the caste system need no reminders of its meaning; it is etched in their consciousness with the indelibility of hot iron. Their sense of entitlement is identical to Churchill's. It's a simple, immutable fact, as certain as the blue-blood coursing through their veins.

We've never veered far from prevailing doctrine of "White Man's Burden"; the dogma that animates the imperial agenda. Iraq is just the latest chapter in this ruinous account of man's inhumanity to man. Racism continues to be the subtext of all American politics, a tragic undercurrent of violence and injustice.

Tuesday, February 1, in Olympia

Noted human rights and pro-independence activist Shadia Marhaban to speak about Aceh

by Peter Bohmer

Noted human rights and pro-independence activist, Ms. Shadia Marhaban, from Aceh, will give a talk in Olympia on **Tuesday, February 1st at Noon in the Library Lobby at the Evergreen State College, and at 7 P.M. at Traditions Café at 5th and Water in downtown Olympia.** Ms. Marhaban will speak about the history of the Aceh, the past and present Indonesian military occupation there, the devastating tsunami, future possibilities, and what we can do to support the people of Aceh.

The estimates of those killed by the December 26th tsunami in Aceh, keeps rising and is likely to surpass 150,000. Aceh is on the northern part of Sumatra Island in the western part of Indonesia. The devastation has been well reported. What has not gotten as much attention is that there has been a long and just struggle for independence by the Acehnese against Indonesia. Aceh is a major producer of natural gas although the Acehnese people do not benefit from it. There has been fighting in Aceh since 1976 with major violations of human rights by the Indonesian military which has ruled Aceh under martial law and a state of emergency since May, 2003. Although the independence movement, which is called the Free Aceh Movmeent (GAM) has declared a cease fire since the tsunami, the Indonesian military has continued to restrict aid and access to Aceh by volunteers who want to help the people of Aceh. They have continued to round up people they suspect as sympathetic to GAM, and killed Acehnese. In her talk on Tuesday February 1st, Shadia Marhaban will place the tsunami and the aid to Aceh in the context of this history and suggest which NGOs should be supported. She will also examine the U.S. role in Indonesia and the U.S. resumption of military aid to the Indonesian government.

There has been a long and just struggle for independence by the Acehnese against Indonesia. ... In her talk on Tuesday February 1st, Shadia Marhaban will place the tsunami and the aid to Aceh in the context of this history and suggest which NGOs should be supported.

Ms. Marhaban is a founder and a leader of SIRA an Acehnese organization active on human rights and women's issues, in grassroots organizing throughout Aceh and in the peace process with the Indonesian government. They formed during the fall of the Suharto dictatorship in 1998. SIRA organized a mass rally in November 1999, attended by 2 million people, calling for a referendum on the independence of Aceh. The referendum demonstrated the overwhelming support for independence for Aceh. Shadia Marhaban has also been involved with Srikandi foundation which has been distributing aid and medicine to the Acehnese who are living in refugee camps there.

In 2003, while working for BBC and CNN, she was accused by the Indonesian military of being a spy for GAM, the Free Aceh movement. Ms. Shadia Marhaban had to leave Indonesia in May 2003, and has been living for over a year as a political refugee in Boston, Massachusetts. She is in daily contact with what is happening in Aceh.

There is no charge for Ms. Marhaban's talks. For more info, call Peter Bohmer, 867-6431 or email me at bohmerp@evergreen.edu

The local struggle *against* empire,

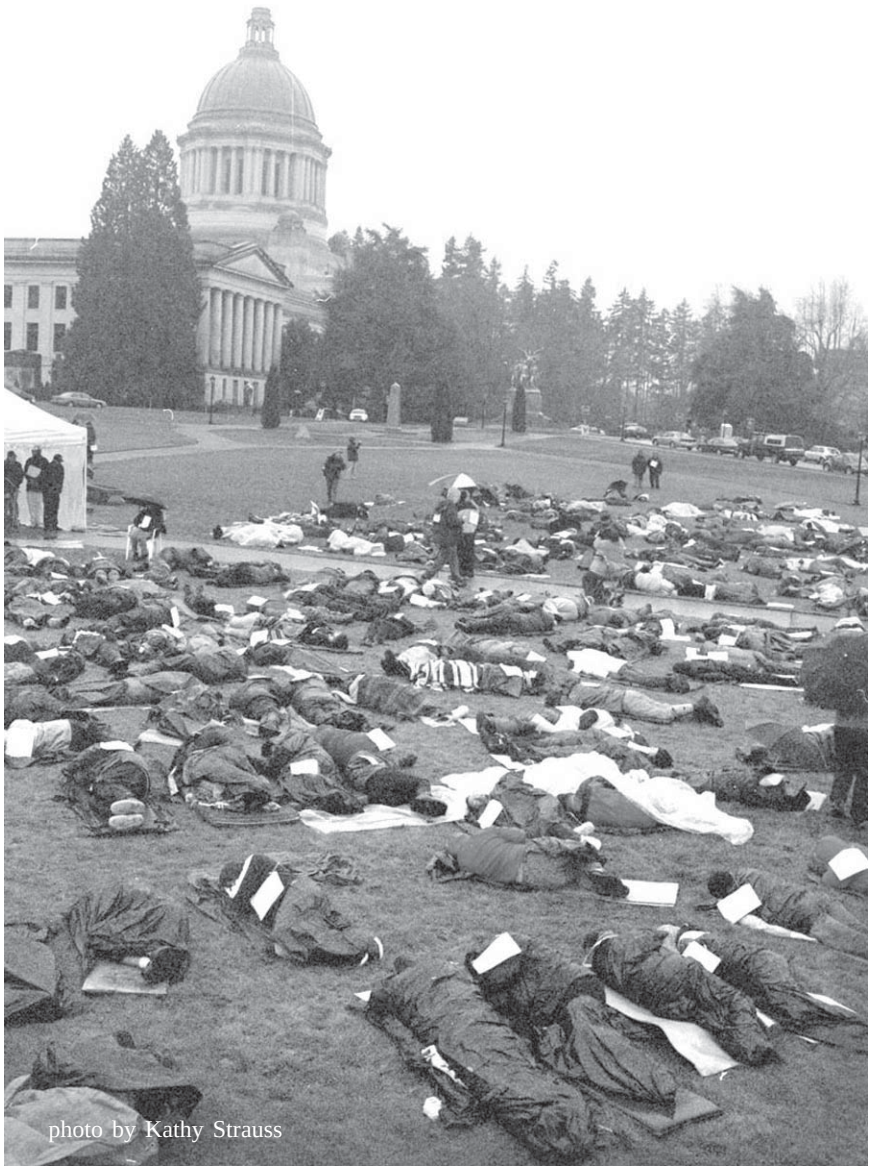
photo by Kathy Strauss

photo by Kathy Strauss

100 Thousand & Counting
Death Tableau and Memorial

Saturday, January 15, in the midst of a freezing rain, approximately 600 Puget Sound residents gathered on Capitol Campus to honor slain Iraqi civilians and mourn all those killed in the Iraq war. Most of those present laid on the ground for one hour, representing actual Iraqi victims; the dead recently estimated at 100,000.

100thousandandcounting.org

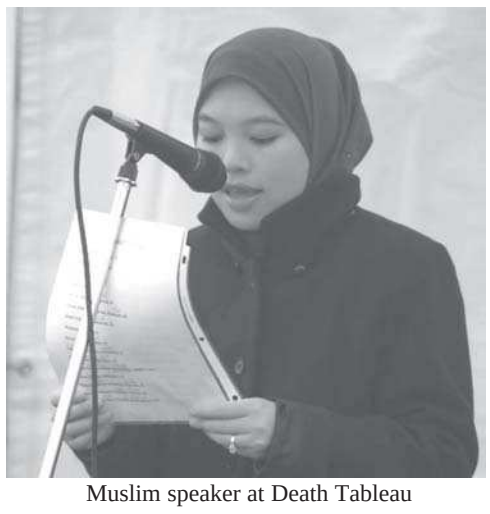
photo by Brooke Greiner

Muslim speaker at Death Tableau

exuberance ...

Code Pink's Anti-Inaugural
Pepto Abysmal Cocktail Party

What a shame we don't print in color. The attire at this Code Pink Inauguration Day protest party at Percival Landing manifested a brilliant monochromatic palette ranging from powder pink to dazzling fuchsia. The message: brace your bellies; we're in for a gastro-intestinally distressing ride.

photos by Pam Ring

for justice and peace, carries on ...

photo essay by Sandy Mayes

principled resolve ...

Neighborhood Mobilization

On the first Friday of each month, residents of the Hospital Hill neighborhood gather at the intersection of Harrison and Perry between 7:30 – 8:30 am, greeting morning commuters with a simple yet surprisingly powerful message. All are welcome to participate in the monthly vigil , regardless of neighborhood affiliation. Or ... consider organizing your own neighbors.

See page 9 for info about a Support the Truth event at Capitol Theater

Olympia Women In Black

Seen here in the early dark of a December evening, against a backdrop of the capitol dome and Heritage Park fountain, is a long row of women dressed in black. These are the Olympia Women In Black who stand vigil every Friday at 5 pm across from Percival Landing on 4th Avenue. They "stand in silent vigil to protest war, rape as a tool of war, ethnic cleansing and human rights abuses all over the world. We are silent because mere words cannot express the tragedy that wars and hatred bring."

photo by Larry Freytag

and unwavering perseverance.

War is terrorism
Have the courage to live nonviolently
Choose peace
STOP the WAR
Protect our troops from this reckless foreign policy

photo by Pat Tassoni

Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation: in it for the long-haul

Every Wednesday since March 5, 1980, Glen Anderson (far left) and other members of the Olympia chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation have held a noon-hour peace vigil at the NW corner of Sylvester Park on Capitol Way. These dedicated souls, among others, can also be seen at Percival Landing every Friday afternoon at 4 pm. This vigil began in 1998 in response to economic sanctions that were devastating Iraq.

www.olyfor.org

photo by Sandy Mayes

The Basics on Social Security

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Social Security has been all over the news recently. President Bush is attempting to convince us that his plan to cut Social Security benefits and privatize the system is necessary and worthwhile and that big changes must be implemented right away. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to learn the basic facts about Social Security and Bush's plan from the news coverage or politicians' statements.

Here are the basics you need to understand the debate and hold your representatives accountable:

Basically, the President is proposing diverting some of these payroll taxes into private accounts for workers, which means that they cannot be used to support current retirees. This means that the government would have to borrow trillions over the next several decades simply to pay for the private accounts.

· Social Security is NOT going bankrupt. In fact, it is perfectly healthy for at least the next 37 years and will always be able to provide higher benefits than current retirees receive, after adjusting for inflation. Social Security is actually running a large surplus each year, of about $150 billion. See the Social Security Fact Sheet from the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

· The so-called "crisis" is at least 37 years away. When the president talks about a "crisis", this is what is really going on: In the year 2042, Social Security may not be able to pay full promised benefits to retirees (although it would still be able to pay more than it does today). It is important to keep in mind that this scenario is a projection from the trustees (four out six of whom are political appointees of President Bush) based on pessimistic assumptions about the growth of our economy. In other words, if the economy does better than these pessimistic assumptions then Social Security will pay full benefits for an even longer period of time. An independent study from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the organization Congress relies on for its own research, finds that Social Security, with no changes whatsoever, can keep on making full payments until 2053, over 10 years further into the future.

· We planned for the baby boomers; they won't destroy Social Security. Although many politicians and talking heads would like us to forget it, the government did know that the baby boomers would retire one day and planned accordingly. Back in the early 1980s, the Social Security program was deliberately adjusted so that it would build up a trust fund that could be used to support baby boomers in retirement. That trust fund has been steadily growing and currently has over $1.5 trillion in government bonds. This money will be "repaid" to the workers who bought them with their Social Security payroll taxes, just as the government honors all of its debts. In the 2020s, the trust fund is predicted to have over $6.5 trillion in assets available to pay retirement benefits.

· The President's plan for Social Security will cut benefits. The administration has proposed cutting benefits gradually over time so that workers now in their 20s will see benefit cuts of almost 30 percent, and those retiring in 70 years could only count on half of their promised retirement benefit. To put this in perspective, consider that if Franklin Delano Roosevelt had adopted the scheme Bush is proposing, today's seniors would be forced to live at a 1940's standard of living (when 40 percent of homes lacked indoor plumbing).

See a "Snapshot" on the benefit cuts from the Economic Policy Institute, and an article from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' Executive Director Robert Greenstein.

· Creating private accounts would do nothing to make Social Security more financially secure. As mentioned above, the predicted deficit for Social Security in several decades is far from a crisis. But even if it were, private accounts would do nothing to prevent it. Proponents of privatization have made claims about future stock returns that they know are not true. None of the proponents of privatization has shown the set of capital gains and dividend yields that will produce their assumed stock returns. (See the "No Economist/Policy Analyst Left Behind Test, which no one has been able to successfully complete.) The higher administrative costs of private accounts will eat up any gains in returns from investing in the stock market. See the Social Security Fact Sheet from the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

· Privatization will cost trillions of dollars over the next decade. Social Security is a "pay-as-you-go" system, meaning that payroll taxes paid today are used to give retiree benefits today (and some are contributed to the Trust Fund for the future). Basically, the President is proposing diverting some of these payroll taxes into private accounts for workers, which means that they cannot be used to support current retirees. This means that the government would have to borrow trillions over the next several decades simply to pay for the private accounts.

· Take action. It is important that people understand the basic facts about Social Security and the impact of privatization. Share your knowledge about the facts with friends, family, neighbors and colleagues. For assistance in writing a letter to the editor, see these sample letters and advice from the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

· Other Resources on Social Security. The Campaign for America's Future has put together a great Web site with ways to stay informed on the debate. The Century Foundation has an equally good Web site, www.SocSec.org. There are plenty of resources out there. Use them and inform your friends.

Center for Economic and Policy Research, 1621 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 293-5380, Fax: (202) 588-1356, Home: www.cepr.net

Local Forum To Save Social Security:

Promoting Progressive Reform and Fiscal Reality

The Bush administration is coordinating a massive disinformation campaign to sell the privatization of Social Security. This campaign has organized millions of dollars from corporations, and groups like the Manufacturer's Association of North America. The conservative think tanks, like the Heritage Foundation, the Hoover Foundation and the CATO Institute are participating in the media campaign to sell the plan to privatize Social Security. These Foundations have also formed groups like SocialSecurityChoice.org and forourgrandchildren.org to mount aggressive grassroots campaigns. The defeat of this attack upon our security will require a huge grassroots mobilization across all walks of life. This forum will inform us and offer each of us the tools to talk simply, but not simplistically, about Social Security in our regular conversations with family, friends, associates and neighbors. This forum will prepare us to participate in defeating Social Security privatization. There will be ample time for discussion about Social Security and ways to get involved in a campaign to stop this raid upon social security, and to work for a just social security system.

Tuesday, March 1st, 7:00 to 9:00pm
Olympia City Center, at 5th and Water St. - Room A:

Speakers and small groups will discuss:
-How the existing Social Security system works.
-What the Bush Administration is really proposing.
-Social Security is Solvent - Critiques of the proposals for privatization.
-Bush's Social Security 'Crisis' rhetoric and how to avoid the pitfalls of debate.
-Alternatives to the Bush Proposal.
-What We Can Do to Stop the Privatization of Social Security.

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Fill the Capital Theater!

Support the Truth: Stop the War on Iraq

by Dan Leahy

On the first Friday of each month, neighbors from our Hospital Hill section of Olympia's Westside have been holding "Stop the War" signs at Harrison and Perry. It's not a big action, but it's something.

As we were holding up the signs one morning, a neighbor told us about a book called Support the Truth. It was a plea written by a Gulf War I veteran to start telling the truth about how our troops are misled and misused in a senseless war and then forgotten in homeless shelters, hospitals and prisons often times suffering from radiation sickness due to depleted uranium poisoning.

We decided to change our slogan around and organize a "Support the Truth" day at the Capitol Theater. We see it as a chance to hear some uncensored facts about the current state of Iraq. We see it as a chance for people sickened by this conflict to register their opposition. We see it as a chance for little groups like ours to gain strength by seeing others who are also determined to mobilize their neighborhoods, stop the war on Iraq and bring our troops home.

We've been lucky enough to secure two great keynote speakers, Scott Ritter and Dahr Jamail. Mr. Ritter is the former weapons inspector in Iraq for the United Nations and a former major in the U.S. Marines. He is the author of several books, including Frontier Justice: Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Bush-whacking of America.

Dahr Jamail is an independent journalist who has spent a total of eight months in occupied Iraq. Mr. Jamail will have just returned from Iraq after covering the US sponsored elections in Iraq. As part of this talk, he'll present a slide show of Fallujah.

In addition to these speakers, we'll be making some noise with the Infernal Noise Brigade, a well known collective of drummers, performers, singers and blowers of brass created in Seattle in 1999 to prepare for the World Trade Organization's ministerial. Many of us remember how important this Brigade was to us during that great victory over the WTO.

Much of this event has been made possible thanks to the sponsorship of the BRICK student organization at SPSCC and the Heroico Batallon de San Patricio. The event has been endorsed by the Veterans for Peace, the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and the 100 Thousand and Counting campaign.

See you at the Capitol on Friday night, February 18th, at 7:00 pm. And, if you've got $5.00 or more as a donation, bring it along to help cover costs.

Support the Truth at the Capitol Theater

Friday, February 18th, 7:00 pm

Speakers: **Scott Ritter & Dahr Jamail**

Music: **Infernal Noise Brigade**

Cost: **$5 - if you've got it**

Yikes

WIP needs a printer !

After 10 years of tedious, often expensive interventions, the Works In Progress printer is finally and completely kaput! Needed ASAP - a functional printer with the following specs:

PC compatible
600 dpi
Laser printer

And since we are an all-volunteer operation with barely enough funds to go press each month, we're hoping to either have a printer donated or that readers who value this publication will send money. Preferably both, since both are very much needed.

If you can donate a printer, write to wip@zhonka.net or call 956-1136.

Send checks to
WIP, PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

Thank you!

Colin Powell's Selective Sense of Horror

by Dave Lindorff

The outrage and dismay over devastation and human suffering seem to have much more to do with how such horrors were caused than the actual horrors themselves, it would seem.

At least, it seems that way when it comes to our outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell, whose sense of horror seems to be remarkably selective.

Touring the wreckage of the recent tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia yesterday, an obviously shaken Powell, a former top U.S. Army general, said, "I have been in war and I have been through a number of hurricanes, tornadoes and other relief operations, but I have never seen anything like this. The power of the wave to destroy bridges, to destroy factories, to destroy homes, to destroy crops, to destroy everything in its path is amazing."

One would think that the carnage caused by man - indeed the carnage for which Colin Powell himself bears considerable responsibility - would be far more troubling than that caused by nature.

You have to wonder what this leading member of the American war machine thought of the power of the U.S. military to destroy bridges, factories, homes, crops, hospitals, dykes, schools, entire towns and cities, rice paddies and indeed "everything in its path" back in Indochina in the years he was there. Especially as he was busy covering up the massacre of women, children and old people at My Lai. What did he think as he toured burned down villages, mile after mile of defoliated jungle, whole barren moonscapes pockmarked with craters from American bombs, millions of dead and maimed men, women and children.

And you have to wonder what he thinks now about the U.S. Shock and Awe destruction of Baghdad, or more recently, of the leveling of the cities of Najaf, Samarah and especially Fallujah.

One would think that the carnage caused by man - indeed the carnage for which Colin Powell himself bears considerable responsibility-would be far more troubling than that caused by nature.

But then we are a selectively outraged people. Where is the mass public campaign to raise money for the hundreds of thousands of wounded and displaced in Iraq? Americans' efforts when it comes to charity and fundraising related to the Iraq War is pretty much limited to providing cookies and body armor for our troops.

As Bruce Jackson wrote in Counterpunch yesterday, our media, quick to display the corpses, and the maimed and orphaned children of the Indian Ocean tsunami, don't bother to show the carnage our army is causing in Iraq. Oh, we get to see the carnage there when it was caused by the Iraqi insurgents, but not when it's our own bombs and bullets that are doing the killing and maiming. And we don't get to see the sheer magnitude of the destruction that our military has wreaked on Iraq and its long-suffering people.

That level of detail, like Secretary Powell's capacity for horror and concern, is reserved for the workings of nature.

Just as Powell was hardened by his Army boot camp training to accept human suffering as a normal consequence of battle, and to bury his humanity when it comes to war, we Americans as a people are being hardened by our compliant pro-government media to put that part of our natural compassion in a lockbox.

Like Pavlov's dogs, we rally to the cause when a storm strikes in Florida or a tsunami hits in Indonesia, but avert our eyes when our own military is the agent of destruction.

Dave Lindorff *is the author of "This Can't be Happening!" published by Common Courage Press. Information about both books and other work by Lindorff can be found at www.thiscantbehappening.net.*

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("Port of Oly" cont. from page 1)

constantly reassess the safety and security environment…I have recommended that we terminate our permanent military presence in Haiti and conduct routine engagement activities." The pentagon estimated that it could save considerable resources doing so. Haitian operations cost $22 million in 1998 "as oppose to $38 million for Operation New Horizons hurricane relief training missions, which took place in five countries." (Haiti Progress, September 1-7, 1999)

The mayor of Milot, Haiti is an example of the type of resistance that exists, even among elected Haitian officials. In 2000, he stopped the construction of a supposed orphanage, "Children of Promise" (Orwell is still rolling over in his grave) because the US military—who said they were acting as "volunteers" for an un-named "U.S. non-governmental organization" had no permission, as U.S. commander Michael Brennan admitted— from any Haitian authorities to build such a facility. The mayor considered Operation New Horizons to be "a program to provide the U.S. military with training, public relation stunts, and an excuse to be in someone else's country" (Haiti Progres, August 9-15, 2000) The U.S. commander Brennen arrogantly stated that the confrontation in Milot was "an unimportant problem which shouldn't affect the continuation of our activities."

The situation in Nicaragua and the rest of Central America is just as serious, if not more so. The Olympian actually gave a "thumbs up" (1/22/05) for the "humanitarian aid" that was being shipped to Nicaragua now, and to Guatemala and Honduras in the recent past. To believe that the United States Government is concerned about the humanity of the people of Central America in general and Nicaragua in particular requires a case of historical amnesia that is beyond comprehension. Conservatively, the US government is directly responsible, over the past three decades, for the deaths of 200,000 people in Guatemala, 80,000 in El Salvador and 50,000 in Nicaragua. The present conditions in those countries are the result of CIA sponsored coups, deaths squads, and a contra war in Nicaragua, where the USG was condemned by the World Court in 1984 for its war crimes in that country. Cynicism does not begin to describe USG "humanitarian aid" to that region.

To believe that the United States Government is concerned about the humanity of the people of Central America in general and Nicaragua in particular requires a case of historical amnesia that is beyond comprehension.

Then what is the US doing with "New Horizons" in Central America? Global Exchange, the internationally respected Human Rights Organization, has several articles about the New Horizons on it website at www.globalexchange.org. They point out that it is, as the US government admits to itself, a training mission in a region where the US has specific interest and where it wants to build an infrastructure for future plans. Specifically these plans include Plan Puebla Panama (PPP), the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, and preparation for the possible implementation of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Cesar Montes, Secretary of the Democratic Left Party in Guatemala has called the operation "an invasion." The indigenous Zapatista Movement of Chiapas in Southern Mexico has declared that PPP will not pass through their lands, despite the signing on to this project by the government of Mexico and Guatemala. This will bring only more death and destruction to the people in the area.

It is perhaps a testament to the peace movement here that the military felt the need to pull this PR venture at this time.

Plan Puebla Panama and the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor are related programs. The plan is to build industrial operations for the use of multinational corporations from southern Mexico through Central America. They also look "to exploit the vast natural resources of the zone for large transnational corporations." New Horizons gives training on the ground for US forces, especially National Guard, scouts the landscape, builds some infrastructure, especially helicopter landings, while giving a veneer of "humanitarian work." I have no doubt that some of the lower ranking US troops are well meaning in their motivations and may believe the public relations efforts of the brass themselves. However, the US military is not the Red Cross or Habitat for Humanity and we should not confuse its mission as the armed wing of US foreign policy, for missionary work.

The people of Latin America are not confused. At a recent meeting (March, 2002) dozens of Latin American human rights groups convened at the First Mesoamerican Forum for Life in Guatemala to discuss several issues, especially dams and water rights. They specifically discussed PPP and New Horizons as part of the military planning for the "imposition of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the militarization of our communities in all the Continent under the auspices of Plan Columbia, where US Military presence is unfolding all over Latin America in order to control strategic resources."

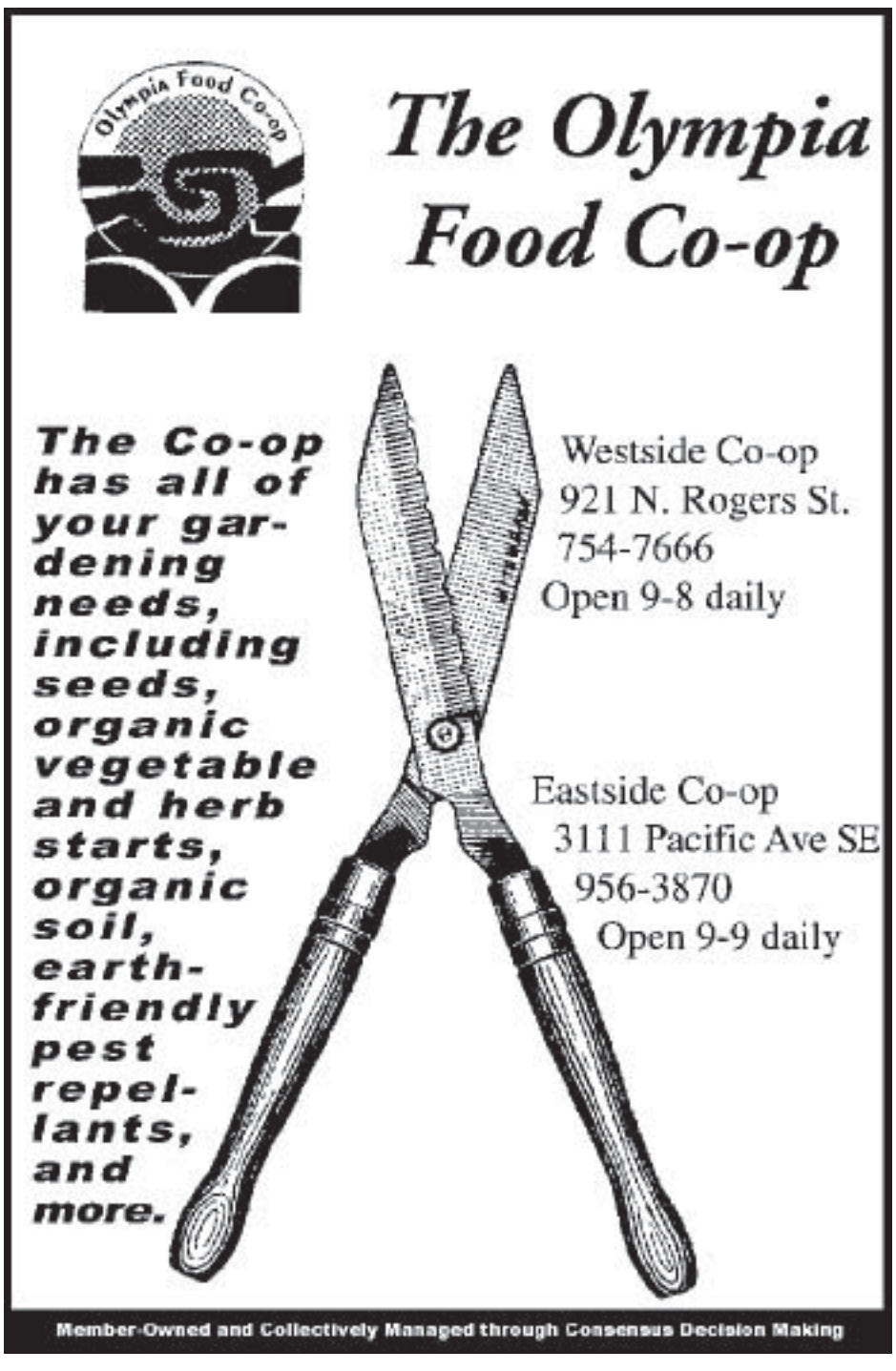
The activities of New Horizon are not lost on the rest of the world. The Columbia Solidarity Campaign of England as well as the Campaign Against the FTAA and The Regional Intervention Plans in Latin America (Netherlands) have also written about New Horizons.

During the Vietnam War, Nixon conducted a "secret war in Cambodia and Laos." However it was not a secret from the people of Cambodia or Laos or from our so-called "enemies." The only people who did not know what was going on with the US government were the American people. At the present time we have an open, albeit illegal war, against the people of Iraq. We also have the continuation of Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) against the people of Latin America. The public relations branch of the armed forces wants us to believe that the US government is concerned about the humanity of the people of Iraq and Latin America. The USG is losing the public relations battle regarding Iraq. It is perhaps a testament to the peace movement here that the military felt the need to pull this PR venture at this time.

As citizens and residents of Thurston County we should not allow ourselves to be duped into believing that the LIC against Latin Americans is "Humanitarian Aid." This is beyond Orwell, it is obscene. The residents of Thurston County should remain vigilant against the continuing use of the port for the illegal war in Iraq. We also should not be fooled into believing Public Relations personnel from the Army who call war materials "humanitarian aid."

Furthermore, we should not accept the slander that those who oppose the Iraq war do not "support the troops." As I have stated elsewhere in "A Duty to Disobey All Unlawful Orders," (www.counterpunch.org, 2/27/03) "The idea that those who oppose the Bush plans for war are against the troops is a fundamental lie. Support for the troops is not done by sending them off to a war which is fundamentally unnecessary—support is keeping them home. Support for the troops is not done by lying to them about the purpose and goals of the war and allowing those who will benefit and profit a free ride on the backs of the troops. Support for the troops is not done by making them complicit in an illegal and immoral war—it is done by exposing the lies and giving the troops an opportunity not to be complicit in war crimes."

Larry Mosqueda, PhD, teaches at the Evergreen State College and is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. "OMJP is committed to building a society that meets the needs of all people, not one based on profit and economic values. We actively support movements that challenge corporate-sponsored globalization, and those that further racial, gender and economic equality. Our efforts are focused on working in solidarity and in coalition with individuals and groups on a local, regional, national, and global level."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BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

Community Cooperative Solutions

by Andrew McLeod

We are confronted with a government intent on cutting and privatizing public services. Cooperatives provide a means of self-reliance and an answer to the post-election question of "now what?"

Cooperative structures are used extensively in the agricultural sector in the US – but have a much wider potential. Worldwide, cooperatives provide crucial services, provide job security even in economic downturns and allow communities to come together to meet needs.

For example, the Mondragon cooperative system is located in the Basque region of Spain. There, people have created a system of 160 cooperatives, which collectively provide employment for 23,000 people while grossing over US$5 billion per year. Its parent corporation is the seventh-largest in Spain, with $20 billion in assets; the system includes one of Spain's largest banks, a research institute, an entrepreneurial division, insurance and social security institutions, schools, a college, a health maintenance system and health insurance cooperative.

Coops already exist in Olympia – for example, you may have heard of the Olympia Food Coop! A cooperative is "a business owned and controlled by those who use its services. In a cooperative, member-users finance and operate the business for their mutual benefit. Control is democratic, and earnings are distributed according to patronage provided by the members or retained in the business for overall member benefit" (from The Northwest Cooperative Development Center).

Two community coop forums have been held since December. These events were opportunities for folks from the Olympia community to come together and envision how we can help ourselves. The first cooperatives forum drew more than 60 people, who started more than 20 work groups, covering topics including housing, childcare, agriculture, a community art space, healthcare, technology and a biodiesel/gas station. The second forum drew in more people, and provided an update to the work of the various groups so far.

Please join us! The next event will be February 21, site TBA – and will include an overview of cooperative structures and guest speakers from already existing cooperatives in the morning. Lunch will be an informal time to share ideas and resources. The afternoon will include workshops on how to build a coop.

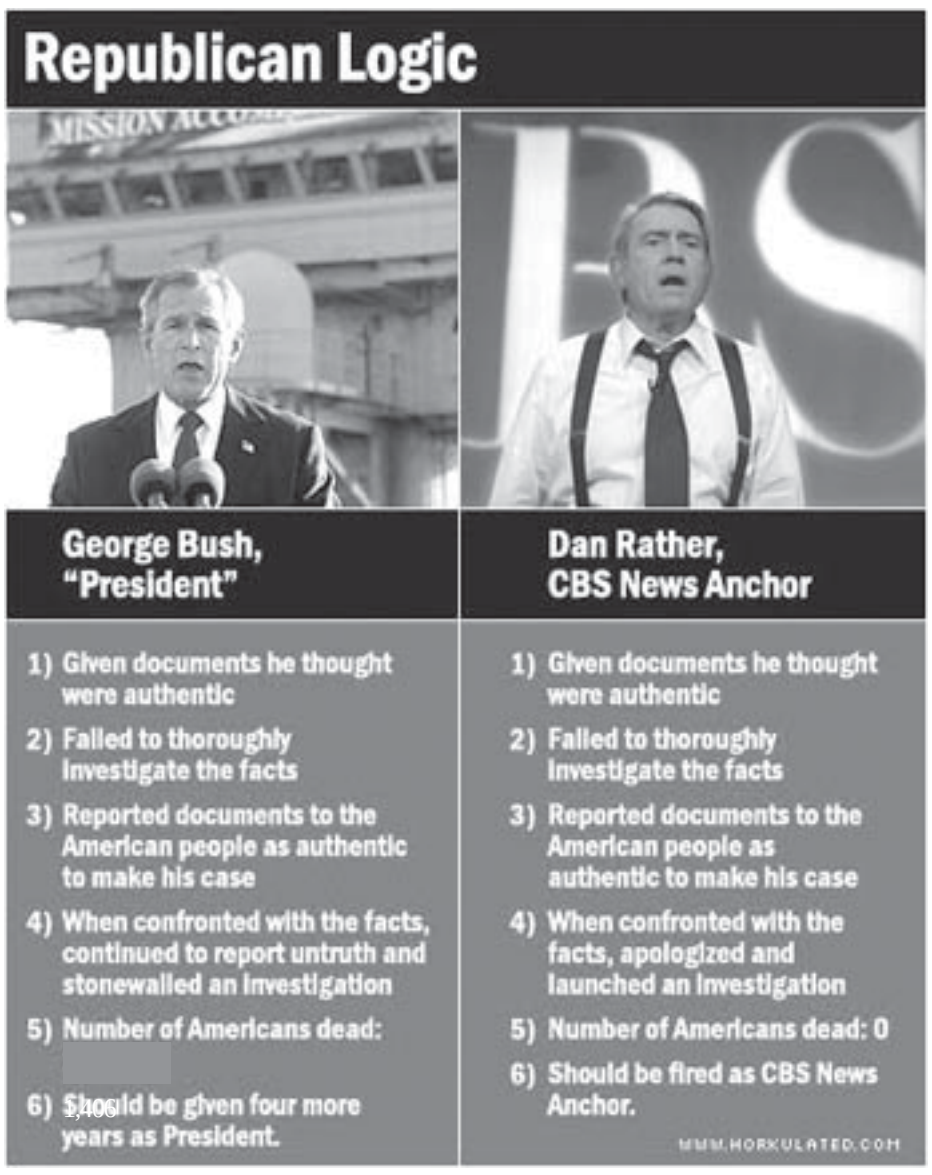
For more information please visit www.oly-wa.us/coop, email cooperativeforum@hotmail.com or call 570-0214.

Do you value Works In Progress?

Do you depend on WIP to provide you with information relevant to the local progressive community or publicize projects you are working on? Have you recently held a fundraiser, the success of which was positively affected by free promotion on the pages of this newspaper – an all-volunteer-run publication which costs money to print? Well, you're in luck; there's a way you can help to assure that WIP will continue to serve this community as it has for nearly 15 years. See page 2 for information on how to subscribe or donate to WIP today. We very much need and appreciateyour support!

With love as always,

WIP


Republican Logic
George Bush, "President"
1) Given documents he thought were authentic
2) Failed to thoroughly investigate the facts
3) Reported documents to the American people as authentic to make his case
4) When confronted with the facts, continued to report untruth and stonewalled an investigation
5) Number of Americans dead:
6) Should be given four more years as President.
1,406
Dan Rather, CBS News Anchor
1) Given documents he thought were authentic
2) Failed to thoroughly investigate the facts
3) Reported documents to the American people as authentic to make his case
4) When confronted with the facts, apologized and launched an investigation
5) Number of Americans dead: 0
6) Should be fired as CBS News Anchor.
WWW.HORKULATED.COM

The Olympia Free School winter 2005 classes have begun!

The Free School works to facilitate learning exchange as an instrument for individuals who want to learn in an open environment. We are a resource that provides free alternative educational opportunities to people of all ages and backgrounds. To find out more about Free School and the classes offered, visit www.olympiafreeschool.org call (360) 352-4165, or stop by our space at 808 Jefferson (office hours are posted on the door).

All classes at Free School (808 Jefferson St. unless otherwise noted) All participants are required to register for Free School classes. Please email: register@olympiafreeschool.org or call 360-352-4165.

Here is a list of all that we are offering this quarter.

~ **Journalism Basics** - Sources and Methods - Facilitator and Contact: Drew Hendricks, 870-3127 Time: Fridays (Jan. 7- March 4) 6:30-9pm

~ **Japanese** - Facilitator and Contact: Natski and Kaori 753-1635
Time: Sundays (Jan. 16-March 27) 12pm

~ **Tea and a Topic** - Facilitator and Contact: Cory and Sy 981-2009 (ask for Sy)
Time: 2nd and 4th Monday 5:30-7PM (Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 14 and 28, Mar 14 and 28)

~ **Beginning Chinese** - Facilitator and Contact: Caitlin Esworthy 360-480-2357
Time: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 from Jan. 12 to March 30

~ Developing a Foundation for Healthful Living Rosser Chiropractic
Facilitator and contact: Dr. Andy Rosser. (360)754-6499
Location: Rosser Chiropractic, 705 4th Ave. East.
Dates and Times: Two six week sessions offered consecutively on Wednesdays.
First Session: Jan. 12- Feb. 16; Second Session: Feb. 23- March 30
Time: 6:15-7:15 *registration required, please call Dr. Rosser

~ Social Communication Group - Facilitator and Contact: Rod Campbell Sr. 459-3641 Time: Thursdays, starting Jan. 13- March 31, 12 Noon until 2pm

~ **BioWONDER Away** - Vegetable Oil Fuel Conversion. Facilitator and Contact: Carrie Day and Murv Thornton 360 570-2200 or kodaday@yahoo.com
Time: 2nd and 4th Thursdays in Jan. (13th and 27th), Feb.(10th and 24th), and March(10th and 24th) 6:30-8pm

~ **Art Co-op Sessions** - Facilitator: Peggy Sue King Contact: cobaltquilter@aol.com
Time: Saturdays 2 - 4 PM, January 15 & 29; February 12 & 26; March 12 & 26

~ Computer Building Workshop - Time: Third Monday of the month Jan 17., Feb. 21st and March 21st 6-9pm

~ Free Expression and Obscenity: Understanding the First Amendment and Sexual Expression - Facilitator and Contact: Marco Rosaire Rossi (360) 956-2958 workingclassheroes@yahoo.com
Time: Tuesdays, February 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 6:45-9:00 pm

~ Industrial Land Development vs. Farmland Preservation
Facilitator: Susie Kyle from Winlock Meadows Farm and Director of the Farm Bank Project. Time: January 11 6:30-8:00

~ Sustainable Agricultural Solutions for un-used land
Contact: Free School. Time: January 18 6:30- 8:00

~ Left Foot Organics - Facilitator: Ann Vandeman Date: January 25, 6:30- 8:00

~ Why Organic Is Not Enough - Facilitator: Gary Kline from Black Lake Organic Nursery and Greenhouse. Time: Feb 1, 7:00- 8:30

~ Urban Farming - Facilitator: Carrot. Time: February 7, 7:00-8:30

~ Introducing Non-Violent Communication - Facilitator and Contact: Marco Rosaire Rossi (360) 956-2958 workingclassheroes@yahoo.com
Dates and Times: Saturday February 19th, 1-4:00pm

~ Organic Beef Farming - Facilitator: Elain Waterman from Heritage Homestead Farm in Tenino. Time: February 21, 7:00-8:30

~Glyceride Tincture Making - Facilitator: Debora McCoard debmccoard@yahoo.com Time: Saturday, Feb. 26, at 4pm

~ Beekeeping From Top To Bottom - Facilitator: Robert Bower from Four B's farm in Olympia. Time: March 11, 7:00-8:30

~ Transcending Domination: Developing a Consciousness of Compassion
Facilitator and Contact: Marco Rosaire Rossi (360) 956-2958 workingclassheroes@yahoo.com
Dates and Times: Saturday and Sunday, March 19th and 20th, 10:00am-5:15pm.

~ How To Start and Maintain a Successful Non-Profit
Facilitators: Blue and Emily from Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB)
Time: March 22, 7:00pm.

~ Work-Trade Educational Party - Facilitator: Don Grower from Endicott Farm
Contact: Free School, and 943-4480 for carpooling to the farm
Date: Sat., March 26 starting at 10 a.m.

~ Voice Lessons - Individual lessons.
Facilitator and Contact: Margaret Rhodes (360) 943-7149

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SUPPORT THE TRUTH
Support the Truth:
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Friday, February 18th, 7pm
Capitol Theater, 206 E. 5th Ave.
Information: Dan Leahy (360) 402-0441

See related article on page 9.

Works In Progress
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with grief ...